

A scenic landscape featuring a grassy hillside with a rocky outcrop and a dense forest of tall trees.

Scenic Reserves of
CANTERBURY

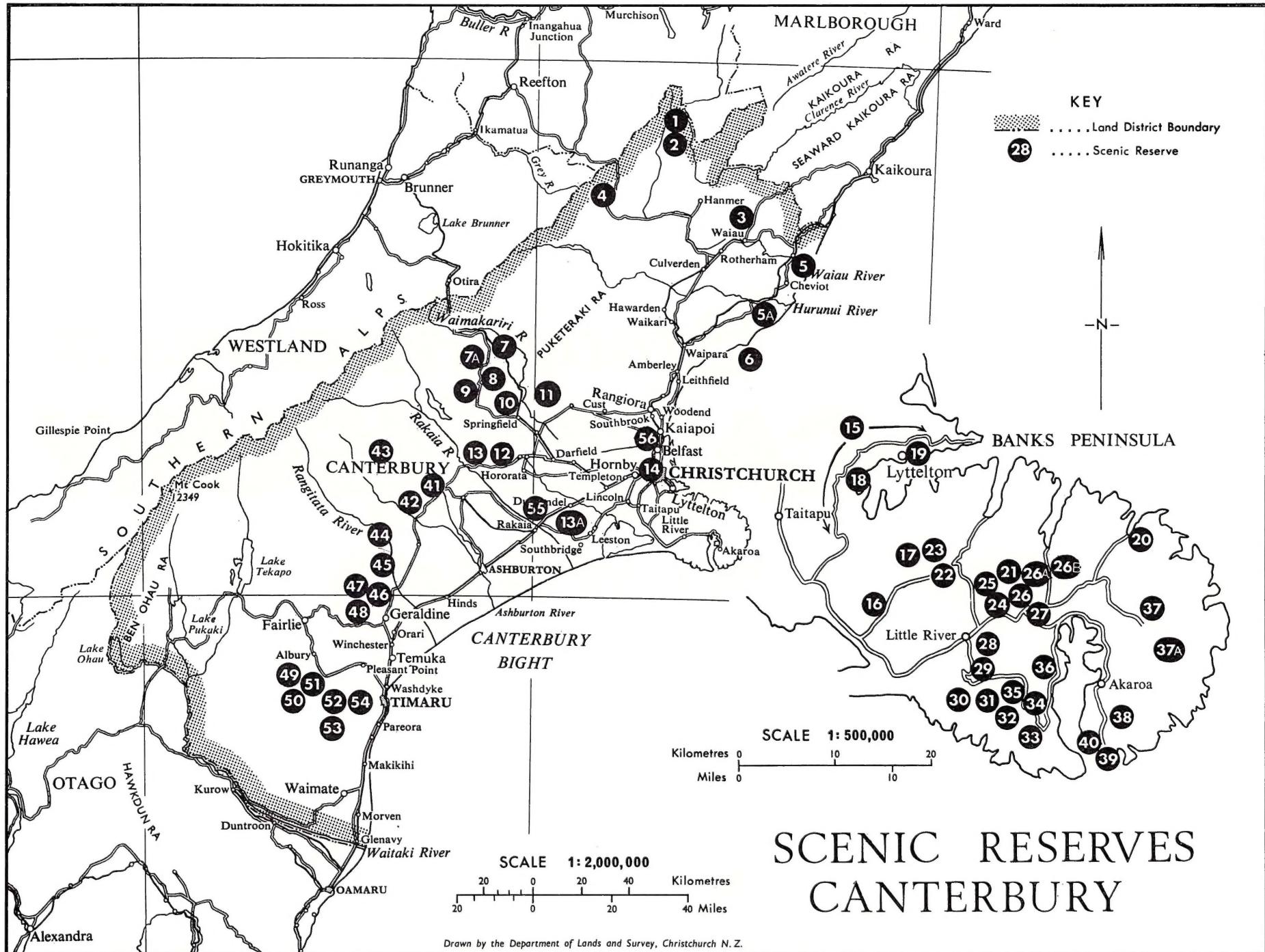


Scenic Reserves of **CANTERBURY**

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for the
Department of Lands and Survey



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Scenic Reserves in General

In various land Acts prior to 1892, power had been given to the Department of Lands and Survey to reserve permanently suitable areas of forest for the purpose of State forest and also to reserve areas for public recreation, for water supplies, for "climatic reasons", and for the protection of the sources of rivers. But it was not until the passing of the Land Act 1892 that the department was charged with the specific task of scenery preservation. During the next 10 years, 265 reserves of various kinds covering 31,047 hectares were made under the 1892 Act. Then for some years the administration of reserves was handled by the Department of Tourist and Health Resorts but reverted to the Department of Lands and Survey in 1909. Since then, except in periods of financial stringency, the department has been active in reserving and protecting areas of scenic and scientific value. As a result, at 31 March 1974, there were 963 scenic reserves with a total area of 277,480 hectares, together with 55 reserves for the preservation of flora and fauna with an area of 187,997 hectares.

Under the general supervision of the National Parks Authority, this vast area of reserved land is administered by the Department of Lands and Survey, which may depute control to special scenic boards, local authorities, or domain boards. Legislative authority stems from the Reserves and Domains Act of 1953. This Act lays down the very definite policy that scenic reserves should be so administered and maintained that:

- “(a) They should be preserved as far as possible in their natural state.
- “(b) Except where the Minister otherwise determines, the native flora and fauna in the reserves shall as far as possible be preserved and the introduced flora and fauna shall as far as possible be exterminated.
- “(c) Subject to the imposition of such conditions and restrictions as may be necessary for the preservation of the natural features of the reserves and the native flora and fauna therein, the public shall have freedom of entry and access to the reserves.”

Many provisions were made in the Act for the protection of reserves but the policy of the department has been to use education rather than the penal clauses of the Act. As with our

national parks, visitors to scenic reserves can help preserve them for their own enjoyment and that of future generations by observing the National Parks Code of Behaviour:

“All birds, native animals, plants, and natural features are protected.

Fires may not be lit without authority except at camping sites or picnic areas. All fires should be in safe places and must be properly extinguished. Use only dead wood for fuel.

Place rubbish in containers where provided, otherwise burn or bury. Dogs and cats may not be brought into a reserve without authority. Firearms may not be taken into a reserve without authority.”

Because of their great variety of physical and biological features, it became necessary to classify the reserves to enable proper planning for the future and the establishment of priorities for the expenditure of the finance available annually. All scenic reserves are now classified in one of the following categories:

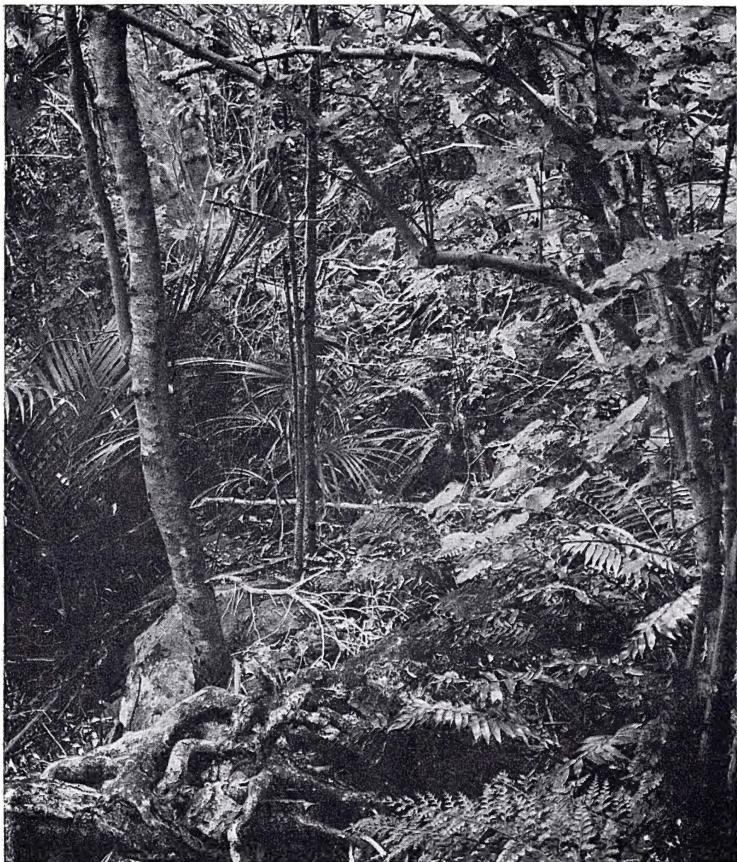
Scenic A: Reserves with scenic values in a panoramic sense, viewed in the main from the outside, and not used actively by the public.

Scenic B: Reserves that have scenic values with an amenity aspect for picnics, walks, and general enjoyment of natural features.

Conservation: Reserves which have their main value as areas for soil and water conservation.

Scientific: Reserves where preservation, for scientific study of plant and animal communities, soil types, and geological features, is the primary concern.

In addition to these categories is the special classification of *Reserve for the Preservation of Flora and Fauna*. In such areas the predominant object is preservation of rare features and no person is “entitled to enter the reserve other than under the authority of a permit granted by the Commissioner of Crown Lands.”



No. 1 *Lake Tennyson*

Area: 238 hectares. Reserved 1928. Class: Scenic B.

Near the source of the Clarence River, which flows through the lake, it is north-west of Hanmer, on the boundary of the Nelson and Canterbury Land Districts. The reserve consists of the lake with a 20-metre unformed

legal road round the margin. Access is by car by N.Z. Electricity Department road from Hanmer for 46 kilometres, then by side road through Molesworth Station to the lake edge at 1,102 metres.

The lake was discovered by F. A. Weld in 1855, who described it as "lying in an amphitheatre of lofty peaks bold in outline,

dark in colour, except where brightened by sunlight and relieved by patches of snow scattered in clefts of the rock". Weld referred to the Spenser Mountains from which the Clarence River descends and to Mt Princess, 2,125 metres, on the left and Crystal Peak, 2,019 metres, and Mt. Maling, 1,823 metres, to the right. Lake Tennyson was formed by the Clarence Valley

The Scenic Reserves of the Canterbury Land District

The Canterbury Land District has an area of 3,620,138 hectares, of which 15,268 hectares or 0.4 percent consist of scenic reserves and reserves for the preservation of flora and fauna.

Until recently, the emphasis, when selecting scenic areas for reservation, was on whether they had forest cover. Consequently Canterbury is fortunate in the proportion of forest in its reserves; whereas of the original vegetation only 15 percent was forest, 70 percent of the total reserved area consists of forest. On the other hand, the proportion of tussock grassland and alpine vegetation in scenic reserves is deplorably low. This is compensated for, to some extent, by the fact that of the area in national parks in Canterbury, 141,639 hectares, there is a large amount of tussock and alpine vegetation. When considering reserves whose main purpose is the preservation of native vegetation and the furthering of soil and water conservation, we should also include land under the control of the Forest Service most of which is available, under certain conditions, for public recreation. We have 210,680 hectares of State indigenous forest (including forest park) and 40,462 hectares of State exotic forest. Thus the total area of national park, scenic reserves, and State forest reserved in Canterbury amounts to 408,066 hectares, or just over 11 percent of the land district.

Apart from the Lewis Pass reserves and Peel Forest, most of the individual areas of bush in scenic reserves are extremely small and consequently very susceptible to damage by fire, stock, noxious animals, or over-use by people. As some of the lowland podocarp remnants in particular can be looked on as museum pieces, to be jealously guarded, it may be necessary before very long to consider restrictions on their use for recreation.

(In all cases, unless otherwise stated, the reserves listed and described are under the control of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Christchurch.)

being damned by moraine and out-wash gravels deposited by a glacier.

Along the eastern margin is a combination of tussock grassland and subalpine species of intense botanical interest. In the absence of sheep grazing since 1938, the native vegetation has recovered to something like its primeval condition, notable being the increasing amount of the lovely golden buttercup, *Ranunculus lobulatus*, and the large white gentian. Paradise and grey duck, scaup, and Canada geese are regular visitors. Brown and rainbow trout provide good fishing.

No. 2 *Lake Guyon*

Area: 66 hectares. Reserved 1928. Class: Scenic B. Towards the source of the Waiau River, 14 kilometres south-west of Lake Tennyson and 38 kilometres north-west of Hanmer. The reserve consists of the lake with a 20-metre

unformed legal road round the margin. On parts of this 20-metre reserve is mountain beech forest badly eaten out by deer and domestic stock but still containing a few species of interesting trees and shrubs. Bird life includes crested grebe, black teal, paradise and grey duck, and oyster catchers. Brown trout are abundant. There is no formed legal road to the lake; access is by station track over Maling's Pass by permission of St. James Station. The altitude of the lake is 810 metres.

No. 3 *Lottery Bush*

Area: 108 hectares in two blocks. Reserved 1955, 1958, 1960. Class: Scenic B. Sixteen kilometres north of Waiau between the Lottery and Wandle Rivers. This is one of the few remaining beech-podocarp forest communities in Canterbury, outstanding in scientific interest as an area of black/mountain

OPPOSITE: *Lake Guyon with mountain beech forest adjoining. Spenser Mountains in background.*

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beech with kahikatea, matai, and rimu spread throughout, accompanied by a variety of secondary species. Regeneration of kahikatea and matai is exceptionally good. There are no formed roads and access is on foot by permission of the adjoining owner. Control is by the Waiau Domain Board.

No. 4 *Lewis Pass*

Area: 10,598 hectares. Reserved 1933, 1938. Class: Scenic B.

Extending for 14 kilometres on either side of State Highway No. 7, this is one of the largest scenic reserves in New Zealand, its size matched by the outstanding views provided by mountain, river, and forest. The northern extremity of the reserve near the Lewis Pass is 191 kilometres by road from Christchurch and 64 kilometres from the Hanmer turnoff. The reserve is an outstanding example of



comparatively unspoiled beech forest—mountain, silver, and red. In the past there has been heavy use by noxious animals, especially red deer, but these are now under reasonable control. Sheep and cattle grazing the flats of the Boyle, Doubtful, and lower Lewis River, graze the bush heavily on the margins but vast areas are in very good order. If any of the small side streams are followed a short distance from the road, a great variety of plants can be seen and, with patience, unusual birds such as robins, parakeets, brown creepers and yellow-heads as well as the more common bellbirds, tuis, fantails, warblers, and tomtits.

Travelling from east to west the first comprehensive view of the reserve is obtained from Guy's Post, a bluff where the Boyle River takes a right-angle turn. Looking up the Doubt-

ful River towards Amuri Pass, we have a block of 1,618 hectares of mountain beech forest to the left, another of 3,642 hectares to the right. Travelling north we look towards the head of the valley of the Lewis with its 5,260 hectares of forest and grassland. Just over the Boyle Bridge a sign indicates the entrance to the reserve. On the right is a forest of red beech of high quality. On the left 2.4 kilometres further on, a side road leads down to a matagouri and tussock flat typical of several similar picnic and camping sites up the valley. Across the river near the bush edge is a warm spring from which steam rises on a cold morning. From here, also on the left, can be seen the lower end of the Nina Valley where the Nina River flows through a spectacular gorge before it joins the Lewis. A few kilometres further on, the road comes out of the bush

OPPOSITE: *On the slopes above Lewis Pass tawny snow tussocks, green carpet grass, yellow-green Hebe, and silver mountain daisies abound. Cannibal Gorge and the Spenser Mountains beyond.*

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with dramatic suddenness to open country with red tussock, silver *Astelia*, and round bushes of bog pine as the main cover.

The old shingle pit on the right provides a car park to enable exploration of the glorious mountain tarn a few metres away on the bush edge. This is one of New Zealand's classic photographic spots with perfect reflections, masses of bearded lichens on weather-beaten beech trees, and high mountains as a back-drop. Near the New Zealand Historic Places Trust marker which commemorates the exploration of Lewis, Maling, Rochfort, Travers, and Stuart, we pass into the Nelson Land District and reach the top of the pass at 911 metres with views up Cannibal Gorge towards the Spenser Mountains, with Gloriana Peak reaching 2,323 metres.



No. 5 *Waiau River Mouth*

Area: 39 hectares. Reserved 1932. Class: Scientific.

Eleven kilometres east of Parnassus by private track by permission of the adjoining owner. There is no public road but there is access from the river by boat. Nearly 16 hectares is in grass and leased for grazing; the bush area is an excellent example of podocarp-broadleaf forest remarkable for the number and size of the hinau, totara, and matai. In addition to many common species, it contains karaka, kawakawa, titoki, rata, the N.Z. passionfruit, and one tree of the very rare *Myrsine montana*.

No. 5A *Napenape*

Area: 54 hectares. Reserved 1972. Class: Scenic B.

Situated 2.4 kilometres south of the Blythe River mouth and 32 kilometres from Cheviot, this reserve has at present no public access except by permission through the property of the adjoining owner. It consists of a saucer-shaped area extending from the sea to a steep scarp of Amuri limestone blocks with many screes, fans, and outcrops of limestone covered with coastal

hardwood forest. There are very large trees of akeake and ngaio, both species of broadleaf, golden akeake, kawakawa, and kaikomako. The rare *Senecio monroi* occurs here at its southern limit. The shrub and ground layers are confined almost entirely to coastal species. The unusual combination of limestone habitat, coastal climate, relative dryness, and geographic position has given rise to a forest community unique in New Zealand; it is an exciting area, scenically, geologically, botanically.

No. 6 *Motunau Island*

Area: 2 hectares. Reserved as a Wildlife Refuge in 1935; in 1958 it was made a Reserve for the Preservation of Flora and Fauna.

Situated 1.2 kilometres from the mouth of the Motunau River, this island is of considerable botanical interest because its tussock grassland was never grazed by stock; its geology has some unusual features; rabbits were introduced about 1850 and exterminated in 1962; it is the breeding ground of large populations of white-flippered penguins, fairy prions, sooty shearwaters, and white-faced storm petrels; and it is the habitat of fur seals. It is under the control of the

OPPOSITE: *Mountain beech forest, with regeneration of young beech, Craigieburn Scenic Reserve.*

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Commissioner of Crown Lands, Christchurch, from whom permission to visit must be obtained.

No. 7 *Lake Grasmere*

Area: 12 hectares. Reserved 1968. Class: Scenic A.

This reserve 125 kilometres west of Christchurch, near State Highway 73, consists of an area of mountain beech forest sloping to the edge of Lake Grasmere. (The lake is not included in the reserve but is a wild-life refuge.) Access is by car track to the east end of the lake and then along the margin.

No. 7A *Craigieburn*

Area: 39 hectares. Reserved 1965. Class: Scenic B.

Craigieburn is an open area with spaced trees, backed by mountain beech forest alongside Manson's Stream, where it crosses State Highway 73, 117 kilometres west of Christchurch. The forest is regenerating following reduction of deer and the cessation of burning. There is a very pleasant sheltered picnic spot with fireplaces by a picturesque bush stream.



Inset 2

OPPOSITE: *Cave Stream Scenic Reserve* has spectacular limestone bluffs. The tunnel discharges into Broken River on the left. There is a tomo on the lower terrace. Craigieburn Range in the background.

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No. 8 *Cave Stream*

Area: 16 hectares. Reserved 1966. Class: Scenic B.

The reserve is open country bounded by Broken River and State Highway 73, 107 kilometres from Christchurch. From the car park there are exciting views in all directions leading up to the Torlesse Range, 1,919 metres, in the east and the Craigieburn Range, 2,195 metres, in the west. The reserve is underlain by limestone and volcanic tuff covered by terrace gravels. Near the car park can be seen a number of sink holes or "tomos" caused by water seeping through joints or faults in the limestone rock and by solution enlarging underground cavities. These collapse from the surface. A short foot-track leads north to the entrance to an underground tunnel through which Cave Stream flows for a distance of 362 metres and emerges through a large outlet in the limestone cliffs to join Broken River. The tunnel developed in a similar way to the "tomos", the stream diverting itself along a crack and enlarging this to the present tunnel. From the car park, a short track leads to the cliff edge for a view of the outlet; this track continues down the face to the junction of the streams and to the outlet. The vegetation of the reserve consists mainly of exotic grasses such as browntop and sweet vernal but there are some bushes of *Coprosma* and matagouri and a few of the rare

Hebe cupressoides. There is a picnic area on the old stream channel near the entrance to the tunnel.

No. 9 *Castle Hill*

Area: 6.3 hectares. Reserved for the Preservation of Flora and Fauna in 1954.

A short distance off State Highway 73, 27.3 kilometres west of Springfield. This is the only home of one of the world's rarest plants, the Castle Hill Buttercup, *Ranunculus paucifolius*. The plant grows at 833 metres (2,500 feet) in loose debris which has weathered from massive bluffs of Tertiary limestone. In 1948 the area was given to the Crown and fenced from stock in an attempt to save the existing 32 plants from extinction. There are now over 200 plants of the buttercup, together with other rare plants such as the penwiper and the Castle Hill forget-me-not. Permission to enter the reserve must be obtained from the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Christchurch.

No. 10 *Kowai Bush* (Private)

Area: 12 hectares. A private scenic reserve.

Over one-third of the area consists of mountain and black beech with a dense undergrowth of broad-leaved shrubs and trees.

No. 11 *View Hill*

Area: 30 hectares. Reserved 1953, 1957. Class: Scientific.

Nine kilometres west of Oxford. Access only on foot on paper road. The bush is a remarkable example of beech (mountain and black) and mixed podocarp forest (rimu, kahikatea, matai, and miro) with a great variety of broad-leaved trees and shrubs, with four species of bush lawyer. An outstanding feature is the amount of young rimu. An area of manuka scrub contains at least nine species of ground orchids.

No. 12 *Hood's Bush*

Area: 6.2 hectares. Reserved 1937. Class: Scenic B.

Eight kilometres west of Whitecliffs on a small tributary of the Glendore Stream. Access by paper road for 1.2 kilometres with permission of adjoining owner. Mainly black-mountain beech. Large numbers of bellbirds usually frequent the area.

No. 13 *Hood's Bush* (Private)

Area: 16 hectares. Black-mountain beech forest adjoining No. 12.



Inset 2*

No. 14 Riccarton Bush

Area: 11 hectares. Reserved 1914. Class: Scenic B.

The main area of bush, 6.2 hectares, was given to the people of Canterbury in 1914 by the Deans family. (A further five hectares with a little bush, Riccarton House, and the remainder planted in introduced trees and lawns, was purchased in 1947.) The bush is the last remaining example of Canterbury Plains swamp forest; as such it is one of the most valuable fragments of the primeval cover of New Zealand. Over the years since settlement, the bush area has become much drier and some species have practically disappeared; among them totara, matai, and hinau. Strangely enough, the kahikatea has adapted successfully to the new conditions and there are many fine trees in healthy condition. Pokaka is also persisting and the lacebark and lowland ribbonwood have both increased in recent years. There is also a good collection of smaller trees and shrubs and several climbers, including the New Zealand passionfruit. Introduced weeds are a constant

problem. Riccarton Bush and the adjoining recreation area are under the control of a board of trustees working under an Act of 1914.

No. 15 Summit Road

Area: 299 hectares. Reserved 1906–1954. Class: Scenic B.

There are 13 separate scenic reserves or groups of reserves adjoining the Summit Road between Evans Pass and Gebbies Pass.

No. 15A Jollies

Area: 1.1 hectares.

Situated in a sheltered corner, this reserve provides an excellent view of Sumner and Pegasus Bay. It has been planted with a mixture of native trees and shrubs, including a collection of beech species and many plants of the large-leaved rangiora. The original piece of bush contains one of the largest specimens of turepo or milk-trec on Banks Peninsula.

OPPOSITE LEFT: *Clearing in Riccarton Bush Scenic Reserve showing Liboc edrus (left) and Spanish fir (right) with Kahikatea remnant in background.*

OPPOSITE RIGHT: *Riccarton Bush, with Kahikatea (left rear) and pokaka (right).*

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No. 15B Mount Pleasant

Area: 5.4 hectares.

The trig station at 498 metres is the initial station for most Canterbury surveys. The superb panoramic views from the open top are somewhat spoiled by masts and guy-wires. On the south face still occur good examples of *Fuchsia perscandens*, *Corokia cotoneaster* and *Hymenanthera crassifolia*. The previous charm of the northern side has been ruined by the hideous buildings of a radio-telephone station.

No. 15C Mount Cavendish

Area: 7.4 hectares.

The reserve consists of a large, very dry bluff, 438 metres, overlooking Heathcote Valley. There are excellent examples of lava flows and intrusive dykes. In spite of regular grazing for over a century, crevices still contain a good collection of native plants typical of the dry rocks of the Port Hills, including a rare fern not found on any other Banks Peninsula reserve.



No. 15D *The Tors*

Area: 5.3 hectares.

These are two very striking rocky peaks, 451 metres. Grazing by stock and the activities of rock climbers have had a detrimental effect on the native species but some still remain.

No. 15E *Witch Hill*

Area. 5.3 hectares.

This prominent peak is seen as a landmark from Cathedral Square. It is mainly grassland, hard grazed, but with several shrubby species persisting, especially the dwarf kowhai. On the rocky summit, overlooking Rapaki Pa, is a stone seat erected as a World War I memorial to local servicemen.

No. 15F *Sugar Loaf*

Area: 111 hectares.

Although open to misuse by man and his animals for a century, the bush still contains specimens of totara, matai, and titoki and some of the largest known examples of mahoe, akiraho, and yellow-wood. Since stock was excluded from part of the area by fencing in 1966, the regeneration has been striking. The open areas of tussock and flax contain many plants of aniseed and of the locally-endemic *Senecio saxifragoides*. There is also some manuka, the only plants reserved on the Port Hills.

No. 15G *Thomson*

Area: 25.5 hectares.

Above the road, part is grazed tussock grassland with a few interesting species still persisting,

OPPOSITE LEFT: *Volcanic dyke running through welded debris and overlying lava flow on Mount Cavendish Scenic Reserve.*

OPPOSITE RIGHT: *Western slopes of Mount Cavendish with Clematis afoliata on bluff in foreground and silver tussock pasture.*

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especially Spaniard (*Aciphylla*), and part has been planted in shrubs. A very attractive area below the road has not been enhanced by planting with pines.

No. 15H *Coronation Hill*

Area: 3.4 hectares.

From the Sign of the Kiwi (at the northern end) steep, rocky, grazed grassland leads to a viewpoint with fine views of Lyttelton Harbour and the Canterbury Plains. Especially on the south face, many interesting natives persist. A graded walking track provides ready access. On the western boundary of the reserve, the Summit Road cuts through a large, multiple dyke, one of the outstanding geological features of Banks Peninsula.



No. 15i *Hoon Hay*

Area: 16.6 hectares.

The vegetation is tussock, bracken fern and second-growth shrubs with much gorse, now being brought under control.

No. 15j *Kennedy's Bush*

Area: 86.8 hectares.

On the harbour side of the road is a grazed area with some native species, especially ribbonwoods. Below the road, the fenced area provides the main hope of preserving a reasonable collection of the species originally growing on the Port Hills. Since the fencing, regeneration has been remarkable, especially in the lower parts; this has been aided by massive planting of local species on the margins. Over 150 species of indigenous plants now grow in this reserve.

No. 15k. *Cass Peak*

Area: 3.2 hectares.

An area below the road is regenerating after fencing; the small portion above the road has some good specimens of mountain totara and fuchsia, with a dense canopy due to wind action.

No. 15l. *Cooper's Knob*

Area: 16 hectares.

There are two areas almost adjoining. The first, o^o 1.2 hectares, consists mainly of silver-tussock grassland considerably altered by grazing and oversowing. The larger area includes the Knob of a height of 573 metres; a prominent landmark from the Plains. The vegetation in this part is a mixture of tussock grassland, bracken fern, shrubs, and bush. The bush, which suffered

OPPOSITE: *Ruins of the "Sign of the Bellbird" a rest-house in Kennedy's Bush Scenic Reserve with "parkland" that includes ribbonwood and narrow leaved lacebark and silver tussock.*

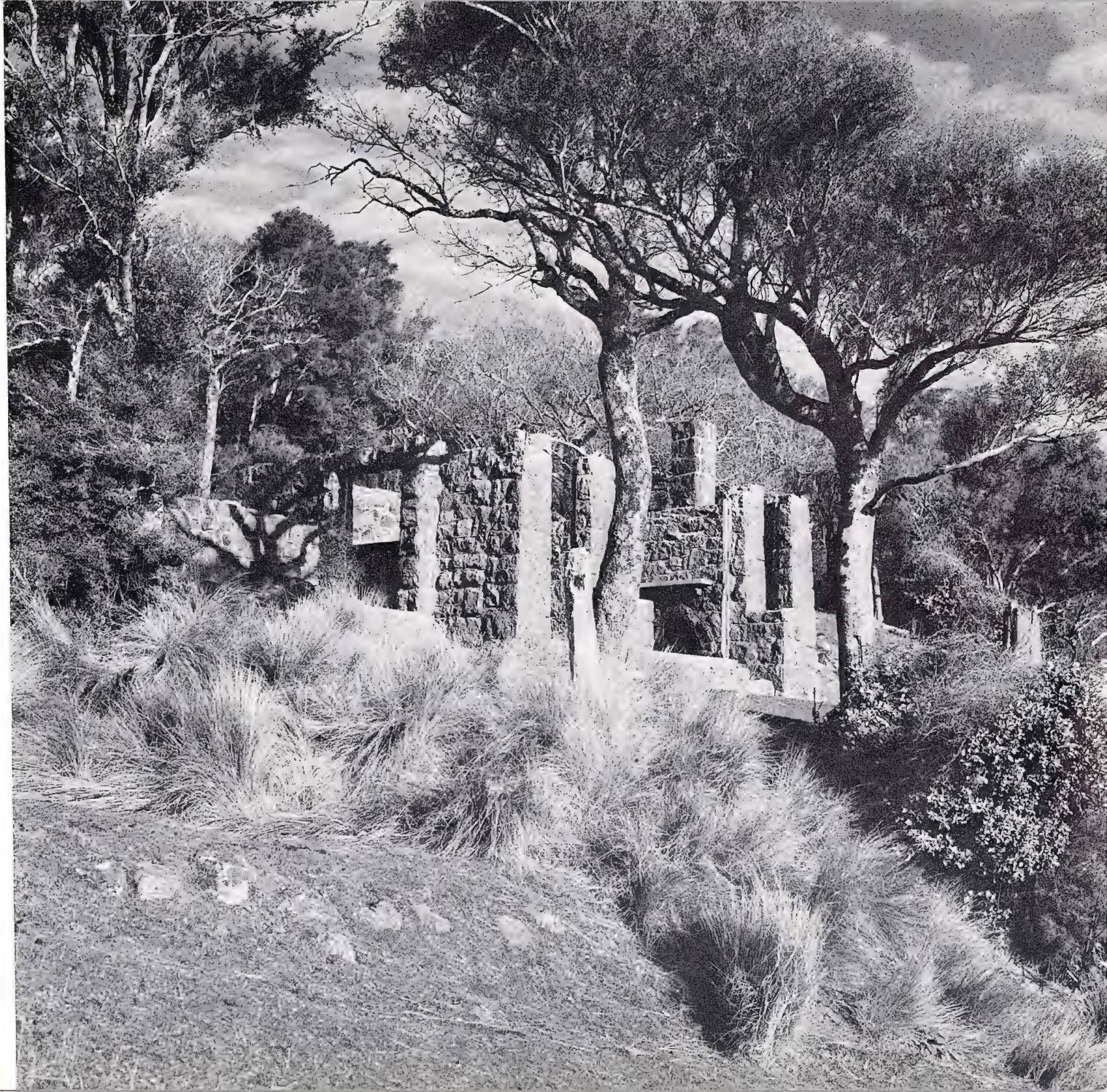
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severely from stock, was fenced in 1967 and is regenerating well. Several rock species persist around the Knob; there is also a small area of snow grass, the only one remaining locally.

No. 15m. *Ahuriri*

Area: 10 hectares.

The road passes through this reserve, both sides of which have been fenced for some years, providing a striking contrast to areas not so treated. The larger area, west of the road, is one of the finest pieces of bush remaining on the Port Hills. There are good specimens of matai (which is regenerating freely), as well as some kahikatea, an unusual occurrence for a comparatively dry situation. Of special interest is the large amount of *Senecio sciadophilus*.



No. 16 *Kaituna Valley*

Area: 5.9 hectares. Reserved 1957. Class: Scenic B.

On the Kaituna Valley road 4.8 kilometres from Kaituna and 45 kilometres from Christchurch. There is a grassed car park and picnic area with fireplaces and toilets. Giant macrocarpa trees provide shelter. There is a relict area of swamp forest with large matai and kahikatea and smaller totara. Of special interest is the large grove of titoki, a species which is here nearing its southern limit. The reserve is under the control of the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand.

No. 17 *Sign of the Packhorse*

Area of the four reserves is 104 hectares. Reserved 1914–1916–1923. Class: Scenic B.

The reserves consist of the site of the last of H.G. Ell's roadhouses on the proposed Summit Road, some open grassland and large areas of bush. This is mainly typical Banks Peninsula mixed podocarp-broadleaf forest. Mountain totara, lowland totara, and matai are the commonest trees, with a few kahikatea, one of which is an exceptionally large specimen. Access is on foot 4.8 kilometres by Summit Track from Gebbie's Pass or 4.8 kilometres by unformed road from Kaituna Valley road.

No. 18 *Governor's Bay*

Area: 1,365 square metres. Reserved 1950. Class: Scenic B.

The reserve is a small gully with bluegums and a few native shrubs, alongside Jetty Road to the wharf at Governor's Bay. It is under the control of the Mt. Herbert County Council.

No. 19 *Buckley's Bay*

Area: 9.4 hectares. Reserved 1970. Class: Scenic B.

Situated halfway between Evans Pass and Lyttelton adjoining the sealed road, this is an area of rocky crags and coastal forest badly damaged by stock grazing for many years but regenerating since reservation and fencing. Of special interest is a plant of *Olearia fragrantissima*, a plant now very rare on Banks Peninsula, and some climbing aniseed, *Angelica geniculata*.

No. 20 *Little Akaloa*

Area: 4,325 square metres. Reserved 1959. Class: Scenic B.

On the Little Akaloa - Chorlton road about 400 metres from Little Akaloa store. The vegetation consists mainly of a canopy of tall, second-growth kanuka, with coastal species such as akeake, ngaio, kawakawa, and New Zealand spinach. Of special interest is the large amount

OPPOSITE LEFT: *Upper part of Buckleys Bay Scenic Reserve with scrub at lower right and flax, herbs, native grasses and occasional shrubs on bluffs.*

OPPOSITE RIGHT: *Upper slopes of Purau Track Scenic Reserve with Spaniard and silver and fescue tussock. The mountain totara forest is fringed with large mountain holly.*

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of the climbing aniseed, *Angelica geniculata*. The reserve is under the control of the Akaroa County Council.

No. 21 *Purau Track*

Area: 8.9 hectares. Reserved 1916. Class: Scenic B.

Four kilometres by fenced walking track from Pettigrews Road, 1.6 kilometres east of the Hill Top. So-called because it is situated on the old Purau Track, the early land communication between Lyttelton and Akaroa Harbours. There is a healthy patch of snow tussock at the southern end. The bush has an almost-closed canopy of mountain totara, with some very large trees. A few trees of toii (the broad-leaved cabbage tree) have persisted in spite of the opossum. Very striking are the large specimens of mountain holly (*Olearia ilicifolia*) on the margin.

No. 22 *Kaituna Spur*

Area: 23 hectares. Reserved 1915. Class: Conservation.

Near the head of Kaituna Valley; there is no public road. Access is on foot 1.5 kilometres across the private property "Top House" by permission. Half the area is in grassland, the remainder in mountain totara forest, some of the trees very large. There is a little matai. The under-storey is practically non-existent as the result of continued grazing by stock.



No. 23 *Herbert Peak*

Area: 240 hectares. Reserved 1915. Class: Scenic B.

The reserve, the largest and most important on Banks Peninsula, can be reached by paper road on foot, either 3.2 kilometres from the Purau - Port Levy Saddle, or 2.4 kilometres from the Kaituna Valley road. It is 8 kilometres from Gebbies Pass by the Summit Track via the Sign of the Packhorse. There are about 140 hectares in bush, 18 hectares in flax, and 82 hectares in grassland, shrubland, and subalpine plants. The bush which almost fills the whole of the upper basin of the Kaituna Valley, reflects the high rainfall of over 177 centimetres. There are hundreds of large specimens of kahikatea, matai, and mountain and lowland totara, with a rich selection of broad-leaved species, climbers, and ferns in the under-storey. On the south-west margin, tall kanuka, probably developed since the early fires, is being replaced by broad-leaved trees and shrubs. Pahautea, the New Zealand cedar, until a few years ago grew on the upper margins but all have died. Fortunately, since the reserve was fenced, a young totara forest is regenerating on the south-east margin and in this some two dozen cedars are growing. Above the bush are striking rock bluffs with many unusual plants, among them some toii or broad-leaved cabbage trees. Above the bluffs are subalpine shrubs and herbaceous species which connect this part of the flora of Banks Peninsula with that of the Southern Alps. On

the tops is tussock grassland modified by grazing and the introduction of exotic grasses. The summit at 918 metres is the highest point on Banks Peninsula.

With such a large area of mixed forest, native birds are common, notable being pigeons, bellbirds, tuis, tomtits, and brown creepers.

No. 24 *Morice Settlement*

Area: 6 hectares. Reserved 1907. Class: Scenic B.

Six kilometres north-east of Little River at the end of Whites Road. Podocarp-broadleaf bush fills an attractive valley which has a permanent stream. There are some large specimens of kahikatea, matai, and totara, and a good range of smaller trees and shrubs. The reserve is rich in climbers of which kohia, or New Zealand passionfruit, is here near its southern limit.

No. 25 *Mount Fitzgerald*

Area: 44 hectares. Reserved 1907-1915. Class: Scenic B.

Access by car to the end of Whites Road 6 kilometres from Little River, then on foot for 1.6 kilometres on a paper road through private property, or by Summit Track 3.2 kilometres from Little River - Port Levy Saddle, or 5 kilometres by track from the Summit Road 1.6

OPPOSITE: *Upper slopes of Herbert Peak Scenic Reserve. Patches of mountain totara with a fringe of scrub leading up to mountain flax and silver and fescue tussock.*

G. C. KELLY

kilometres east of Hill Top. From the peak, widely known as Mount Fitzgerald, 826 metres, but now marked NN on N.Z.M.S. 1, mountain totara forest with some matai and kahikatea, leads down for 800 metres. Tree ferns occur with a good mixture of broad-leaved trees and shrubs. Near the striking rock escarpments towards the upper margin, subalpine shrubs reflect the severe climatic conditions experienced in winter. In this area a few toii or broad-leaved cabbage trees have survived years of opossum attack.

No. 26 *Mount Sinclair*

Area: 30 hectares. Reserved 1915. Class: Scenic B.

The reserve is situated just across the fenced Summit Track from the summit of Mt Sinclair, 842 metres, and can be reached on foot by the track, 3.2 kilometres from the Summit Road near Hill Top. The views from the summit are outstanding. The main area of bush is typical Banks Peninsula mountain totara forest with some matai. The under-storey still contains a variety of broad-leaved trees and shrubs but has suffered over the years from stock grazing and opossums. Now that both kinds of animal are under reasonable control, regeneration is taking place. Above the bush on the open exposed area there is some snow grass, subalpine scrub, and herbaceous plants, especially speargrass or Spaniard.



No. 26A *Glenralloch*

Area: 12 hectares. Reserved 1972. Class: Scenic B.

Presented by the Hay family, this piece of bush is situated 121 metres below the summit of Mt. Sinclair. Mountain totara predominates on the north side and is regenerating freely among a mixture of broad-leaved trees and shrubs, including mountain holly. On the south side are a few derelict totara under which is a remarkable example of second growth bush including horopito, fuchsia, five-finger, and broadleaf with large numbers of young totara emerging through the canopy. Access is by unformed road from the Summit Track.

No. 26B *Hay*

Area: 6 hectares. Reserved 1972. Class: Scenic B.

Situated at the junction of Pigeon Bay Road and Cemetery Road 6.4 kilometres south of Pigeon Bay township. Presented by the Hay family, this is one of the last areas of lowland podocarp forest on Banks Peninsula and is particularly attractive along the banks of the stream. There are good specimens of matai, kahikatea, totara, miro, and pokaka, with a great variety of broad-leaved trees, including titoki and kawakawa. There are some fine tree ferns and many herbaceous species and, on the margins, some large kanuka. There are also some plantings near the road of introduced conifers and deciduous trees.

No. 27 *Montgomery Park*

Area: 23.6 hectares. Reserved 1940–1968. Class: Scenic B.

On the Summit Road close to the Hill Top, 8,093 square metres of recreation reserve and 7.2 hectares of bush are freehold land presented to the Wairewa County Council. The bush, which is typical Banks Peninsula podocarp-broadleaf forest, contains some very large totara, mountain totara, and matai. Of special interest is the climbing *Senecio*, elsewhere becoming rare. Rimu and New Zealand beeches have been planted in the south-west corner. Unfortunately, pines and Douglas fir were planted in the mistaken belief they were necessary to protect the bush. The remaining area is Crown reserve purchased in 1968. It consists of rapidly regenerating native forest, remarkable for the size of the lowland ribbonwoods or manatu, and leads up to a rock escarpment from which magnificent views can be obtained. Control is by Wairewa County Council.

No. 28 *Okuti Valley*

Area: 4.3 hectares. Reserved 1917–1932. Class: Scenic B.

On Okuti Valley road 4.8 kilometres from the head of Lake Forsyth. Although small in area, it contains so many species of trees, shrubs, ferns, and climbers that it is an excellent sample of the mixed podocarp-broadleaf forest which formerly covered so much of Banks Peninsula. It contains totara, matai, and kahikatea,

OPPOSITE: *Fushia*, *mountain pepper*, mixed broadleaf forest of Mount Fitzgerald Scenic Reserve.

G. C. KELLY

regenerating freely, and three kinds of tree fern. Other trees of special interest are titoki, very large lancewoods, pigeonwood, kaikomako (the Maori fire tree), and the two trees called pepper-tree—horopito and kawakawa. Bush birds often seen are pigeon, tui, bellbird, rifleman, brown creeper, fantail, and tomtit. There is a walking track, a car park by the Okuti Stream, and a picnic area with fireplaces.

No. 29 *Te Oka*

Area: 11 hectares. Reserved 1917. Class: Conservation.

The reserve is situated above the Te Oka road 4.8 kilometres from the head of Lake Forsyth. There are large totara (up to .9 metre in diameter), mountain totara, matai, and kahikatea, very large lancewoods, pigeonwoods, and five-fingers, and two kinds of tree fern. There is no formed public access.

No. 30 *Magnet Bay*

Area: 18 hectares. Reserved 1917. Class: Conservation.

The reserve is near the Magnet Bay road, 13 kilometres from the head of Lake Forsyth. Access is on foot through private property by permission of adjoining owner. There are large trees of totara and matai. Of special interest are akeake, akiraho, titoki, kawakawa, and pigeonwood, all of which are here on their southern limit.



OPPOSITE: The lower part of the waterfall in Long Bay Scenic Reserve with several species of Blechnum ferns, Astelia and *toi-toi*.

G. C. KELLY

No. 31 *Devil's Gap*

Area: 48 hectares. Reserved 1898. Class: Conservation.

Eight kilometres from the head of Lake Forsyth by Kinloch, Bossu, and Gap Roads and 800 metres on foot across private property by permission. A massive rock face on the north-eastern side is a spectacular scenic feature. The open top carries the largest area of pure snow grass still remaining on Banks Peninsula. Below this is typical Banks Peninsula podocarp-broadleaf forest with a few large totara, matai, and kahikatea. Tree ferns are common.

No. 32 *Peraki Bay*

Area: 18 hectares. Reserved 1898. Class: Conservation.

Access is by foot on unformed road 402 metres from Robin Hood Bay Road, 11 kilometres from head of Lake Forsyth. This is a long narrow area of stunted podocarp-broadleaf bush on an exposed spur. There is much shrubby *Coprosma* on the margins.

No. 33 *Long Bay*

Area: 13 hectares. Reserved 1898. Class: Conservation.

Access on foot 800 metres across private property, by permission, from Island Bay Road, 17 kilometres from the head of Lake Forsyth via Kinloch and Bossu Roads. There is some tussock grassland above steep faces covered with

second-growth bush surrounding an amphitheatre with a spectacular waterfall nearly 60 metres high.

No. 34 *Carews Peak*

Area: 35 hectares. Reserved 1898. Class: Conservation.

Areas of 4 and 1 hectares to the north of Bossu Road and one of 29 hectares to the south, near the junction of Bossu and Reids Hill Roads, 19 kilometres from the head of Lake Forsyth. All consist of podocarp-broadleaf forest badly damaged in the past by stock and opossums.

No. 35 *Peraki Saddle*

Area: 75 hectares. Reserved 1898–1930. Class: Upper part, Conservation; Lower part, Scenic B.

Access is by metalled road, 16 kilometres from the head of Lake Forsyth. The upper area of 40 hectares is to the east of Bossu Road and south of its junction with Jubilee Road. There is much grassland with weather-beaten podocarp-broadleaf forest below. Totara is the main tree. The lower area is traversed by the Peraki Road. It is one of the largest and best examples remaining of Banks Peninsula podocarp forest. Especially on the southerly slope are numerous large trees of totara, matai, and kahikatea. The under-storey consists of a great variety of broad-leaved trees and shrubs, tree ferns, many species of herbaceous ferns, and the usual Banks Peninsula climbers. Of outstanding interest is

the large area of tall second-growth kanuka on the south margin under which numerous lancewood and five-finger have regenerated.

No. 36 *Wainui*

Area: 8,093 square metres. Reserved 1954. Class: Scenic B.

Eight hundred metres from Wainui township, 8 kilometres from Barry's Bay. There is road access to within a few metres of this reserve, then by unformed road. This is the only lowland forest reserve on the eastern side of Banks Peninsula and unfortunately it has suffered severely from continuous grazing by stock until recently. There are several large kahikatea and some matai. There is a good mixture of climbing and broad-leaved trees and shrubs including a few adult kawakawa, titoki, pigeonwood, and kaikomako.

No. 37 *Otepatotu*

Area: 37 hectares. Reserved 1930–1953. Class: Scenic B.

The reserve adjoins the Summit Road, 24 kilometres from Hill Top or 14 kilometres from Akaroa. There is a grassed area of flat land at the entrance for parking and picnicking but there is no water. The reserve consists of two sections separated by a wide walking track near the end of which is Lavericks Peak, 755 metres just outside the boundary. Near the top of the zig-zag, close to the commencement of the track, a path leads to the left to the flat top of a magnificent rock escarpment from which



glorious views can be obtained.

This reserve contains an outstanding example of mountain totara forest where most of the old trees are healthy and there is excellent regeneration of young totara. It is one of the few remaining sites on Banks Peninsula where *toii*, the broad-leaved cabbage tree, still persists in spite of the attacks of opossums. Another striking feature is the number and size of five-finger.

No. 37A *Ellangowan*

Area: 8.9 hectares. Reserved 1970. Class: Scenic B.

The reserve is 1.2 kilometres from the cabstand on the Summit Road above Akaroa and is bounded on the south and east by Hickory Bay Road. It is covered with mixed podocarp-beech forest with mountain totara and red beech as the big trees. There are large specimens of broadleaf, lancewood, lemonwood, five-finger, and pate, a wide variety of smaller trees and shrubs and, of special interest, some adult broad-leaved cabbage trees. A foot track leads through the bush to an escarpment, the habitat of a number of rock-dwelling plants, some of which, such as *Senecio lagoopus* and *Hebe lavaudiana* are found only on Banks Peninsula. From here splendid views are obtained of the bush and the coast.

No. 38 *Armstrong*

Area: 36 hectares. Reserved 1969 (a gift from the Armstrong family). Class: Preservation of Flora and Fauna.

Near the saddle on the Stony Bay road, 8 kilometres from Akaroa. This new reserve is of outstanding biological significance. Extending from Flag Peak, 813 metres through tussock-grassland to bush in a deep valley, it contains over 160 species of native plants including the only reserved beech forest on Banks Peninsula (red and mountain and hybrids between them); the only significant number of New Zealand cedars on the peninsula; a number of broad-leaved cabbage trees; one of the very few colonies of the rare mountain daisy, *Celmisia mackaui*, which is confined to the peninsula; superb rock and bluff vegetation including *Anisotome enysii*, *Hebe lavaudiana*, and at least 11 species of plants first discovered by Raoul 1840-42. Entry is by permit from the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Christchurch.

No. 39 *Dan Rogers Creek*

Area: 6 hectares. Reserved 1963. Class: Preservation of Flora and Fauna.

Eight hundred metres across private property from Lighthouse Road, 8 kilometres south of Akaroa. A narrow gully with high steep walls, containing some 120 species of native plants

OPPOSITE: Looking down over the mahoe broadleaf forest, Long Bay Scenic Reserve.

G. C. KELLY

including the rare mountain daisy, *Celmisia mackaui* and over 50 mature nikau palms, the most southerly plants on the mainland. Entry is by permit from the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Christchurch.

No. 40 *Palm Gully* (Private)

Area: 16 hectares. Class: Private Scenic Reserve. The reserve is situated in a spectacular gully discharging into the sea 6 kilometres south of Akaroa. It contains a large number of nikau palms.

No. 41 *Alford*

Area: 33 hectares. Reserved 1931. Class: Scenic B and Scientific.

On the right bank of the North Ashburton River by Forks Road 4.8 kilometres from Alford Forest Store, then 800 metres by unformed road. Ten percent is in tussock grassland, the remainder in forest of three types—broad-leaved trees (including mountain ribbonwood), beech (mountain—black), and (of exceptional scientific interest) beech with kahikatea, the latter regenerating vigorously. Tree fuchsia, climbing fuchsia, and their hybrids are all present. The area has suffered severely in the past from the depredations of domestic stock, deer, and opossums.



OPPOSITE: The track to Sharplin Falls crosses the Bowyers Stream by a swing bridge under beech trees.

J. PATERSON

No. 42 *Sharplin Falls*

Area: 226 hectares. Reserved 1911–1930–1952.
Class: Scenic B.

The reserve adjoins Alford State Forest No. 32; access is by Flynn's Road, 3 kilometres from Staveley Hall. From the end of the road a car track leads to a car park and picnic area on the high right bank of Bowyers Stream. The bush is interesting as being mainly a combination of mountain beech and rata; there are isolated totara, matai, and kahikatea with a good under-storey of broad-leaved trees and shrubs and many species of ferns. A foot track crosses the river by walk-way bridge and provides a round trip to the rapids and falls. Control is under the Ashburton County Council.

No. 43 *Maori Lakes and Lake Heron*

Area: 714 hectares. Reserved 1931. Class:
Scenic B.

The Maori Lakes (two areas totalling 28 hectares) adjoin the Lake Heron road about 28 kilometres from Mt. Somers township. Lake Heron, of 685 hectares, is 8 kilometres further on at a height of 693 metres. Both areas are habitat for native water fowl (grey duck, black teal, and crested grebe) and for Canada geese and Australian black swan. In addition to the protection provided as scenic reserves, the lakes are wildlife refuges. Good camping and picnic areas are available at the south-west margin of Lake Heron.

No. 44 *Raules Gully*

Area: 12 hectares. Reserved 1933. Class:
Conservation.

Near the Rangitata Gorge road 37 kilometres north of Geraldine via Peel Forest. The reserve is partly river bed and partly river terraces with steep faces above on which cotton plant grows freely. The vegetation in the lower parts is mixed Canterbury broadleaf forest with no podocarps. It has suffered from years of grazing by domestic stock. There are some very large specimens of broadleaf. There is no public access but a view is obtainable from the road.

No. 45 *Peel Forest Park*

Area: 750 hectares. Reserved 1909–1972. Class:
Scenic B.

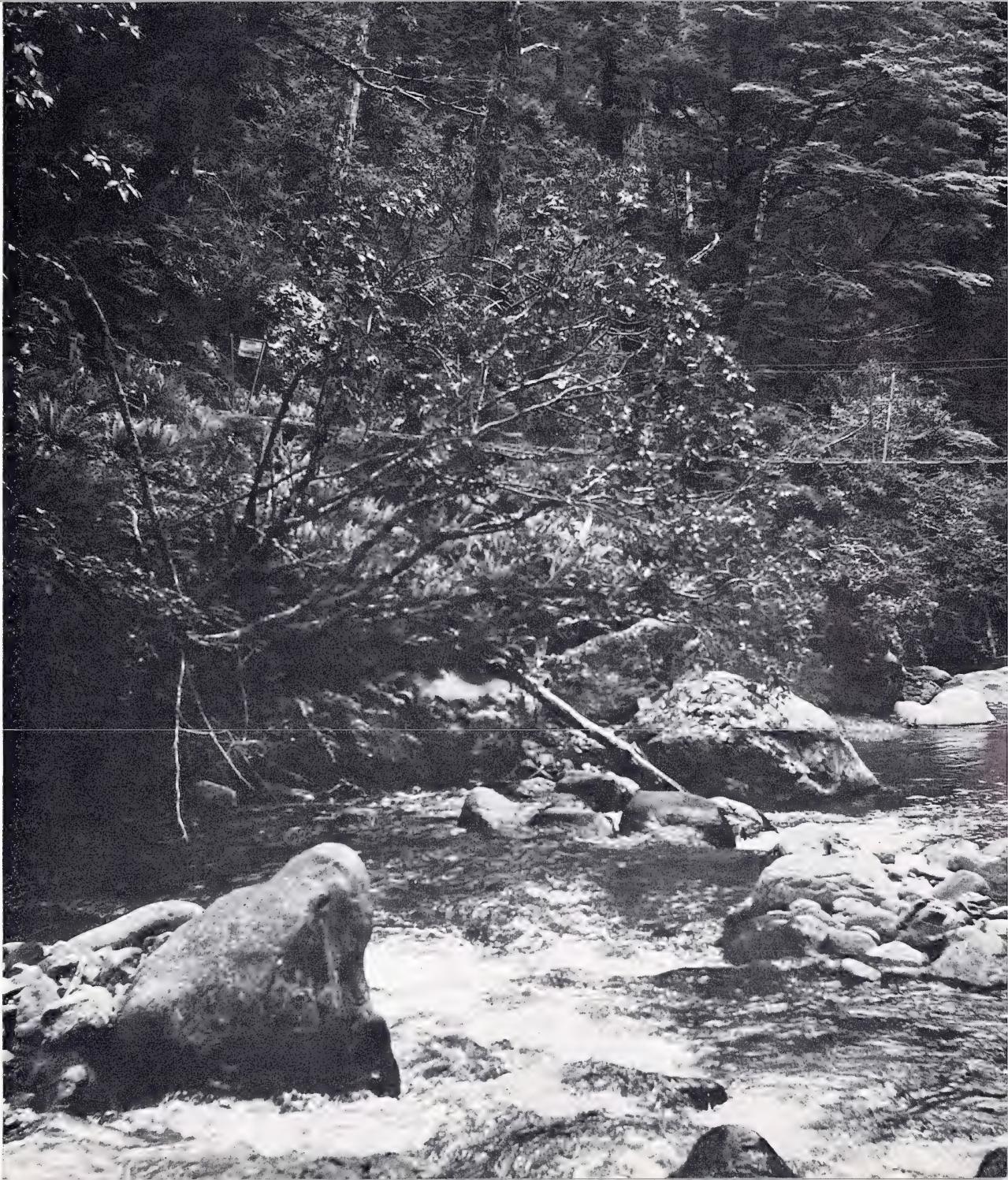
Twenty-two kilometres north of Geraldine on Peel Forest Road, this reserve is most spectacular and varied, running from the Rangitata River through heavy lowland podocarp forest to the sub-alpine area of Little Mount Peel at 1,307 metres. It is well watered by permanent streams, with several striking waterfalls. The totara trees are often very large (over 9 metres in circumference) and there are large matai, kahikatea, rata, lancewood, New Zealand cedar, and kowhai. There is a great variety of broad-leaved trees and shrubs and several climbers, with clematis and parsonsia quite spectacular in the flowering season. There are four kinds of tree fern and a large catalogue

of herbaceous species, most of which can be seen along the popular Fern Walk. Native bird-life is always present in large numbers; some of the species to be seen on a day's visit would be pigeon, bellbird, fantail, tomtit, warbler, rifleman, brown creeper, kingfisher, kaka, pipit, and perhaps kea, parakeet, and tui. There are many picnic areas with fireplaces near water, a fully-equipped camp ground, and many miles of foot tracks leading to the main features of waterfalls and big trees, to several scenic viewpoints, and to the summit of Little Mt. Peel. At the information centre at the park headquarters, a ranger can be consulted regarding camp sites and all other matters concerning the use of the park. The park is under the control of the Peel Forest Park Board.

No. 46 *Orari Gorge*

Area: 79 hectares. Reserved 1911. Class:
Scenic B.

Adjoins Yates Road off the Tripp Settlement Road, 12 kilometres north-west of Geraldine. This is an area of second-growth bush after early milling. The parts then burned are in tall kanuka, being replaced by a varied mixture of broad-leaved species including two kinds of tree fern. The unburned areas contain matai, totara, kahikatea, and pokaka. An old trig track provides easy access. An open grassed area by the road provides a fine picnic site but water is scarce.



No. 47 *Waihi Gorge*

Area: 61 hectares. Reserved 1911–1949–1970.
Class: Scenic B.

Four kilometres by the Waihi Gorge Road from Woodbury, then approximately 40 metres to the picnic and camp ground by the Waihi River. There are four areas—2 hectares on the right bank, 37 hectares of bush on the hillside across and up the river for 2 kilometres, then a small gap to 21 hectares on the left bank and 2,033 square metres on the right bank. All land between the road and river, apart from the camping ground, is private land. Legal access is only along the river bank.

The second area is one of the best remaining areas of the mixed podocarp-broadleaf forest which once covered a wide area of South Canterbury. The commonest big tree is totara, with some matai and kahikatea, all regenerating freely. In spite of years of depredations by stock and noxious animals, there is a variety of species in the under-storey. At the west end is black beech, the most southerly on the eastern side of the South Island, and thus of great scientific interest. This reserve is noted for the number and variety of small birds, both native and introduced.

No. 48 *Hae Hae te Moana*

Area: 75 hectares. Reserved 1914–1931. Class: Conservation.

Across the river from the Te Moana Road 12 kilometres west of Geraldine. The reserve consists of steep bush-covered faces sloping to the river, the south boundary. The bush consists mainly of second-growth broad-leaved trees and shrubs with a few small totara.

No. 49 *Tasman Smith*

Area: 20 hectares. Reserved 1932. Class: Conservation.

Access is along 1.5 kilometres of unformed road from the end of a metallised road 9 kilometres west of Cave. This is mainly second-growth bush on a fairly steep hillside. There are some very large broadleaf and kowhai and many large yellow-wood *Coprosma*. The area has suffered severely from stock, wallabies, and opossums, and palatable species have been reduced or have disappeared.

No. 50 *Pareora River*

Area: 206 hectares. Reserved 1931. Class: Conservation.

The reserve is 38 kilometres west of Timaru, 3 kilometres off the Pareora Gorge road between

OPPOSITE: Dense bush on the banks of the stream at Waihi Gorge near the picnic ground.

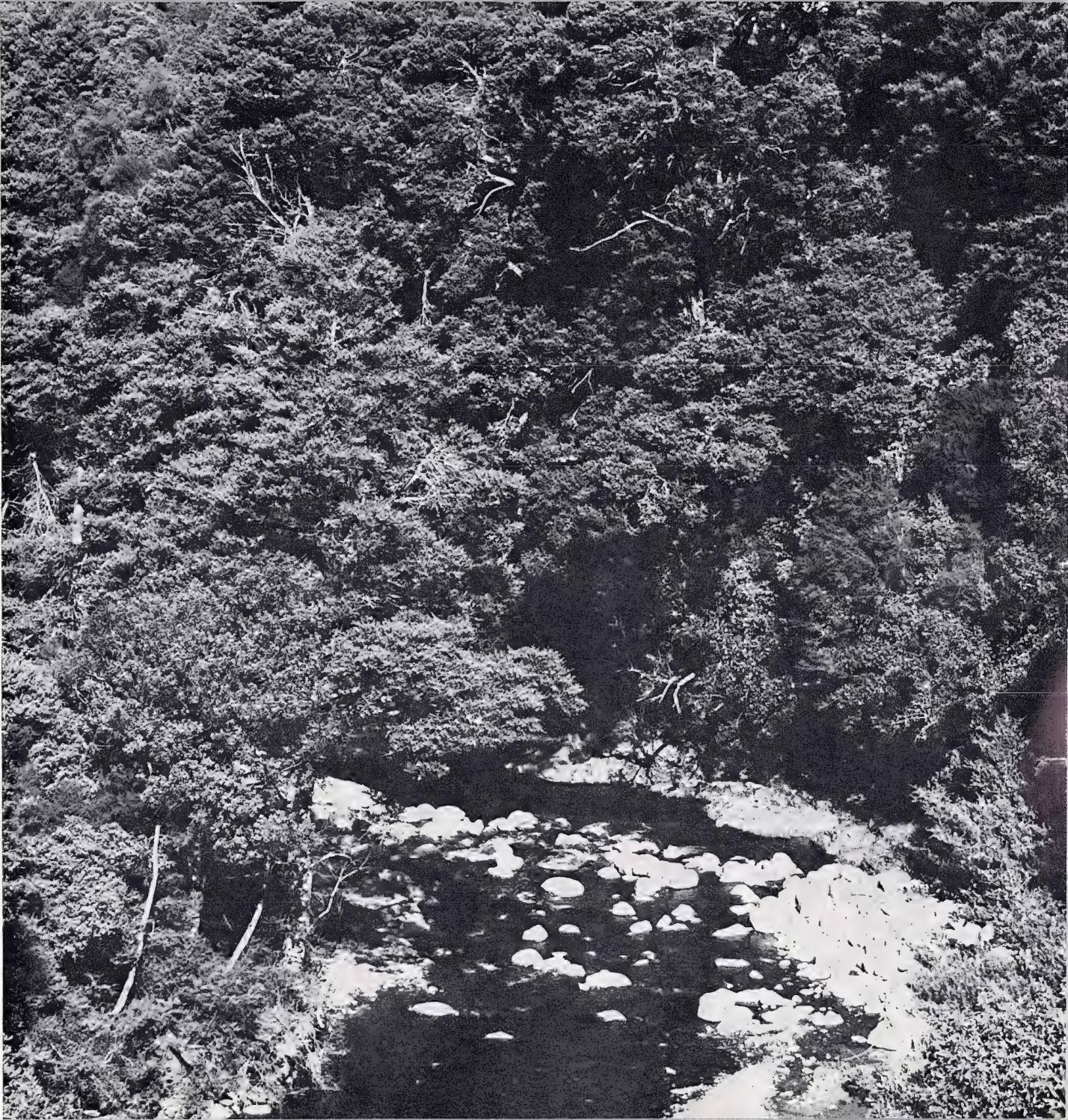
F. DAVID

Timaru and Cave. From a picnic site at the entrance a pipe line and bridges with handrails provide easy access to a dam 3 kilometres upstream. This is a source of water for the city of Timaru. The vegetation was originally totara and matai forest, with some good specimens remaining, together with a wide variety of broad-leaved shrubs and trees and of climbers. Severe damage was done by stock prior to fencing; wallabies and opossums are still a problem. The reserve is under the control of the Timaru City Council.

No. 51 *Pareora*

Area: 10 hectares. Reserved 1915–1937. Class: Scenic A.

Two areas of bush 16 kilometres from Cave and 35 kilometres from Timaru on the Pareora Gorge road between Timaru and Cave. An area of 1.6 hectares above the road consists of stunted bush covering a steep limestone bank. Below the road there is a steep face mainly in bush and leading down to the Pareora River. The main trees are broadleaf and lancewood, some of them very large. Severe damage by stock, wallabies, and opossums has removed most of the palatable species and ground plants. The reserve is under the control of the Mackenzie County Council.



No. 52 *Matata*

Area: 109 hectares. Reserved 1932. Class: Scenic B.

Two scenic reserves have been amalgamated with State Forest 53 to include most of the catchment of a main branch of the White Rock River. The area includes an attractive gorge with well-bushed faces and a waterfall. Access is by unformed road for 600 metres from White Rock River Road off Pareora River Road, 41 kilometres west of Timaru. The bush is typical South Canterbury podocarp-broadleaf forest with fine specimens of totara, matai, and kahikatea. The under-storey was severely damaged by stock, wallabies, and opossums, but since the area was fenced and an intensive attack made on noxious animals, there has been encouraging regeneration.

No. 53 *Mount Nimrod*

Area: 208 hectares. Reserved 1931–1970. Class: Scenic B.

This is an attractive piece of bush and tussock, forming a part of the catchment of the White Rock River. Mt. Nimrod, 1,524 metres, is only 1.6 kilometres distant. Access is by an unformed road for 800 metres from White Rock Road off the road from Timaru to Cave. The main bush is podocarp-broadleaf forest

with totara, matai, and kahikatea and very large broadleaf. The under-storey has a long history of damage by stock and noxious animals. Fencing and the control of wallabies and opossums have recently encouraged regeneration.

No. 54 *Claremont*

Area: 14 hectares. Reserved 1914. Class: Scenic B.

A short distance by track from an extension of Beaconsfield Road 12 kilometres west of Timaru. This is the nearest scenic reserve to that city. It consists of a fairly steep southerly face covered with podocarp-broadleaf forest. There are numerous large matai and some totara and kahikatea. Among the trees of the under-storey are some large turepo or milk-tree, a plant of the rubber family. It is rich in milky sap which exudes if the bark is punctured. The bush was badly damaged by stock in the past; fencing has now permitted regeneration. The reserve is under the control of the Levels County Council.

No. 55 *Bankside*

Area: 2 hectares. Reserved 1971. Class: Scientific.

Situated 6 kilometres due east of Bankside this reserve will preserve from cultivation a sample of

FRONT COVER: *Bush at Ahuriri Scenic Reserve with Coopers Knob in background.*

C. HOLDSWORTH

BACK COVER: *Track through bush at Blandswood, Peel Forest Park.*

J. PATERSON

undisturbed soil of the Eyre-Paparua complex of which there are 97,124 hectares on the Canterbury Plains. The larger plants consist of kanuka scrub, matagouri, fescue tussock, and small danthonia, but altogether nearly 50 species of native plants have survived in spite of 120 years of grazing.

No. 56 *Eyrewell*

Area: 2 hectares. Reserved 1971. Class: Scientific.

Situated just beyond the north-west corner of Eyrewell State Forest, with access by right-of-way from Wrights Road, this is a sample of undeveloped Lismore soils, the largest single soil complex on the Canterbury Plains, covering about 202,342 hectares. It contains a fine sample of kanuka thicket and the associated grassland which once extended from the foothills to the sea. The kanuka has an under-storey of mingimingi (*Cyathodes juniperana*) and in addition to fescue and silver tussock, the clearings contain many species of herbaceous plants, some manuka, and two shrubs rarely found in Canterbury today—*Coprosma intertexta* and *Pomaderris phylicifolia*.

INDEX

	No.		No.		No.
Alford ..	.. 41	Lake Tennyson ..	.. 1	Raules Gully ..	.. 44
Armstrong ..	.. 38	Lewis Pass ..	.. 4	Riccarton Bush ..	.. 14
Bankside ..	.. 55	Little Akaloa ..	.. 20	Sharplin Falls ..	.. 42
Buckleys Bay ..	.. 19	Long Bay ..	.. 33	Sign of the Packhorse ..	.. 17
Carews Peak ..	.. 34	Lottery Bush ..	.. 3	Summit Road ..	.. 15
Castle Hill ..	.. 9	Magnet Bay ..	.. 30	Ahuriri ..	.. 15M
Cave Stream ..	.. 8	Maori Lakes ..	.. 43	Cass Peak ..	.. 15K
Claremont ..	.. 54	Matata ..	.. 52	Cooper's Knob ..	.. 15L
Craigieburn ..	.. 7A	Montgomery Park ..	.. 27	Coronation Hill ..	.. 15H
Dan Rogers Creek ..	.. 39	Morice Settlement ..	.. 24	Hoon Hay ..	.. 15I
Devil's Gap ..	.. 31	Motunau Island ..	.. 6	Jollies ..	.. 15A
Ellangowan ..	.. 37A	Mount Fitzgerald ..	.. 25	Kennedy's Bush ..	.. 15J
Eyrewell ..	.. 56	Mount Nimrod ..	.. 53	Mount Cavendish ..	.. 15C
Glenralloch ..	.. 26A	Mount Sinclair ..	.. 26	Mount Pleasant ..	.. 15B
Governor's Bay ..	.. 18	Napenape ..	.. 5A	The Tors ..	.. 15D
Hae Hae Te Moana ..	.. 48	Okuti Valley ..	.. 28	Thomson ..	.. 15G
Hay ..	.. 26B	Orari Gorge ..	.. 46	Sugar Loaf ..	.. 15F
Herbert Peak ..	.. 23	Otepatotu ..	.. 37	Witch Hill ..	.. 15E
Hood's Bush ..	.. 12, 13	Palm Gully ..	.. 40	Tasman Smith ..	.. 49
Kaituna Spur ..	.. 21	Pareora ..	.. 51	Te Oka ..	.. 29
Kaituna Valley ..	.. 16	Pareora River ..	.. 50	View Hill ..	.. 11
Kowai Bush ..	.. 10	Peel Forest Park ..	.. 45	Waiau River Mouth ..	.. 5
Lake Grasmere ..	.. 7	Peraki Bay ..	.. 32	Waihi Gorge ..	.. 47
Lake Guyon ..	.. 2	Peraki Saddle ..	.. 35	Wainui ..	.. 36
Lake Heron ..	.. 43	Purau Track ..	.. 21		



Plank Ranunculus paucifolius in the Castle Hill reserve for flora and fauna.

R. C. BLACKMORE

Further details and information together with pamphlets on the more popular reserves can be obtained from the Department of Lands and Survey, State Insurance Building, Worcester Street, Private Bag, Christchurch.

